

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1028

By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Tom Beasley upon being named the 2007 Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our state who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated conservationist is Mr. Tom Beasley, owner and operator of Mr. Beasley's Buffalo Ridge Tree Farm and the Tennessee Forestry Association's 2007 Tree Farmer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, this annual award recognizes tree farmers that do an outstanding job of forest and resource management, as well as promoting the tree farm program through action and example; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Beasley purchased his first parcel of land in 1996, he had a vision of what his tree farm should be, and he hired a full-time caretaker and enlisted the help of local Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) employees to implement his vision; and

WHEREAS, with the purchase of several adjoining tracts of land, Tom Beasley's tree farm boasts an acreage of 2,119 and is named Buffalo Ridge after the high rock bluff overlooking the Buffalo River on his property; and

WHEREAS, imbued with an admirable passion for improving wildlife habitat, Mr. Beasley has worked assiduously to develop his tree farm into an ideal environment for wildlife to thrive; he also hosts annual handicapped and juvenile hunts with the help from local TWRA employees, installs food plots and ponds for the deer and turkey to feast upon, and has done

extensive estate planning that prohibits commercial and real estate development on the property, ensuring the tree farm's status as a family forest for several generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Tom Beasley began timber harvesting forty acres of his forest and converted the clear cut area into a field of native warm-season grasses to improve quail habitat; since then, the quail population has increased with deer and turkey using the area as well. His efforts have been so successful that he is currently harvesting 100 acres of recently purchased land of ridge top timber that will be converted into a road system with strip food plots along the side; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Mr. Beasley's Buffalo Ridge Tree Farm, he owns forestland in Dickson County, which contains some of the finest high-grade hardwood in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he also purchased the family farm in Smith County, where there now stands beautiful poplar and walnut trees that he planted; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Beasley practices sustainable forestry on every piece of property that he owns, making improvements that seem minimal, but prove to be monumental over time; and

WHEREAS, keeping his land beautiful and healthy, Tom Beasley begins thinking about what trees will grow best on it as soon as he purchases a tract of land, and his tree farms feature some of Tennessee's best water quality, scenic rock bluffs, and impressive forestry; and

WHEREAS, visitors to the Buffalo Ridge Tree Farm can be assured of enjoying the best of Tennessee's natural beauty to its fullest, learning about forestry and wildlife while participating in numerous outdoor recreational activities, such as boating, fishing, hiking, camping, and horseback riding; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tom Beasley is a fitting recipient of Tennessee's 2007 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award, and his commitment to the responsible stewardship of the land is most assuredly deserving of special recognition by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Tom Beasley upon being named the 2007 Tree Farmer of

the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and thank him for his dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources -- our forestland and wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mr. Beasley our best wishes for every success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.